

1. A computer implemented method for controlling a commercial environment, said environment comprising a plurality of traders, each of said traders included in at least one of a plurality of members, wherein said plurality of members are included in at least one of a plurality of communities, said method comprising the steps of:

defining which of said plurality of traders are included in which of said plurality of members, and

a) interaction between a first of said traders and a second of said traders, and

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

designating at least one of said communities in which said first and second of said traders are allowed to interact, wherein interaction between said first and second of said traders is prohibited unless said first and second of said traders belong to said designated community.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein ones of said members are included in more than one of said communities.

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method of claim 2, further comprising:
 and ones of said traders to authenticate
 es of said members.

5. A method of controlling a commercial environment, said method comprising a plurality of traders, ones of said traders included in a plurality of members, wherein said plurality of members are at least one of a plurality of communities, said method comprising

a) defining which of said members are included in at least one unities;

b) defining which of said traders are included in at least one of the categories;

c) defining which of at least one of said members is linked to at another of said members in said community;

d) defining which of at least one of said traders is linked to said
f said communities; and

e) allowing ones of said traders and ones of said members to
in the at least one of the communities based on steps (a) through (d).

5. The method of claim 5, wherein ones of said members are more than one of said communities.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

defining one of said traders which is linked to another of said

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1 8. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:
2 defining which one of said traders which is linked to one of said
3 members.

1 9. A method of controlling a commercial environment, said
2 environment comprising a plurality of traders, each of said traders included in at
3 least one of a plurality of members, wherein said plurality of members defines a
4 community, said method comprising the steps of :

5 creating a database;

6 restricting access of at least one of said traders to a portion of said
7 database based on at least one of:

8 a) a first definition of a first relationship between said
9 trader to at least one of said members, and

10 b) a second definition of a second relationship between
11 said trader to at least one of another of said traders.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

2 restricting access of at least one of said traders to a portion of said
3 database based on a definition of a third relationship between said trader to said
4 community.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein said plurality of members
2 defines a plurality of communities which includes said community.

1 12. An apparatus for controlling a commercial environment,
2 said environment comprising a plurality of traders, each of said traders included
3 in at least one of a plurality of members, wherein said plurality of members are
4 included in at least one of a plurality of communities, said apparatus comprising:

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5 a members table for defining which of said plurality of members
6 are included in at least one of said communities;

7 a traders table for defining which of said plurality of traders are
8 included in which of said plurality of members, and

9 an authorization table for allowing at least one of said traders to
10 authorize at least one of:

11 a) interaction between a first of said traders and a
12 second of said traders, and

13 b) interaction between a first of said members and a
14 second of said members.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said authorization table is
2 further for designating at least one of said communities in which said first and
3 second of said traders are allowed to interact, wherein interaction between said
4 first and second of said traders is prohibited unless said first and second of said
5 traders belong to said designated community.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein ones of said members
2 are included in more than one of said communities.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said authorization table is
2 further for allowing said ones of said traders to authorize interaction between any
3 of said traders and ones of said members.

1 16. A computer system for controlling a commercial
2 environment, said environment comprising a plurality of traders, ones of said
3 traders included in a at least one of a plurality of members, wherein said
4 plurality of members are included in at least one of a plurality of communities,
5 said system comprising:

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6 a members table for defining which of said members are included
7 in at least one of said communities;

8 a traders table for defining which of said traders are included in at
9 least one of said communities;

10 a further members table for defining which of at least one of said
11 members is linked to at least one of another of said members in said community;
12 and

13 a further traders table for defining which of at least one of said
14 traders is linked to said at least one of said communities;

15 wherein ones of said traders and ones of said members interact
16 within the at least one of the communities based on definitions included in said
17 members table, said traders table, said further members table and said further
18 traders table.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein ones of said members are
2 included in more than one of said communities.

1 18. The system of claim 16, further comprising an additional
2 traders table for defining one of said traders which is linked to another of said
3 traders.

1 19. The system of claim 16, further comprising an additional
2 traders table for defining which one of said traders which is linked to one of said
3 members.

1 20. A computer system for controlling a commercial
2 environment, said environment comprising a plurality of traders, each of said
3 traders included in at least one of a plurality of members, wherein said plurality
4 of members defines a community, said system comprising:

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1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein access is restricted of at
2 least one of said traders to a portion of said database based on a definition of a
3 third relationship between said trader to said community.

1 22. The system of claim 20, wherein said plurality of members
2 defines a plurality of communities which includes said community.

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